

Robert Pitts was an outstanding man dedicated to family, faith, and country. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE
JARED HUFFMAN HONORING
MAYOR GARY PHILLIPS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Phillips as he retires a distinguished tenure of public service as Mayor of the City of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips earned his undergraduate degree and Master of Business Administration from Humboldt State University. He applied his education throughout his professional career as a certified public accountant and business executive as well as an elected official. He and his wife Linda settled in San Rafael 48 years ago. They proceeded to raise a family and became committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips' first role as an elected official for the San Rafael community was as a member of the former Dixie School Board, where he served for eight years, including twice as president. He was elected to the City Council in 1994 and served three terms before retiring in 2007. In 2011, he decided to run for Mayor when Mayor Al Boro retired after nearly 20 years of service. As an elected official, Mayor Phillips drew upon his business acumen, standing up for small businesses, working to improve education, and responding to the changing needs of the community.

Over the years, Mayor Phillips developed a deep record for going to bat for San Rafael residents, demonstrating steady leadership through trying times. This includes navigating financial challenges, homelessness and housing, securing funding to improve fire service, and the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. At every critical moment Mayor Phillips has worked to provide the people of San Rafael with the support and resources they need. He is also known at City Hall for his ability to form consensus and adhere to principles, and for his thoughtful, hands-on approach to leadership—invaluable qualities in a mayor.

It has been my pleasure to work closely with Mayor Phillips' on a number of key issues, including homelessness, gun violence reform, discrimination, and securing funds to dredge the San Rafael Canal. I have also had the pleasure of working with him in his role as Chair of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) to find solutions for rail and multimodal transportation through the downtown.

Mayor Gary Phillips has been an unwavering champion for his community across his nearly 30 years, and I am certain his public service is not complete. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring him for his many positive contributions to the residents of San Rafael and the entire North Bay Area and in wishing him well in his next endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes on December 2, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS MCBRIDE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis McBride as he leaves the Board of Education of the Redwood City Elementary School District after serving 17 years. This brief introduction of Dennis does not begin to do him justice.

Let me offer you the image of the Energizer Bunny, unceasingly banging on a drum and looking a bit cool at the same time. This is Dennis. Let me also acknowledge that this might be the only time that comments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD refer to a Certified Public Accountant as "cool." The word fits Dennis.

He began his love affair with education as a parent volunteer with the cooperative preschools in which his two children were students. He then hopped to the nearby elementary school where he became active in the site council and organized field trips, such as when he took a class to visit a leading computer manufacturer. He served on the site councils of every school attended by his two children. While some parents coach soccer, Dennis coached other parents and teachers in how to solve problems, raise funds, helped teachers, and did so much more. That's a drum-banging, cool dad.

As a CPA, Dennis volunteered his professional talents for numerous parcel tax and bond measures. The funds raised built classrooms throughout the elementary and high school districts and sustained the curriculum to the best degree possible despite economic circumstances. It is estimated that over 25,000 pre-K through eighth grade students, and additional high school and community college students, were benefitted by Dennis' work. In the buildings created, in the music programs sustained, in the special education students aided, and in dozens of other ways large and small, Dennis created a legacy that will last for at least two generations.

Dennis has always been unassuming in his collaborative ventures with other school district trustees from around the county, but many eventually made their way to Dennis as they sought answers to tough financial and personnel issues. For years he's been a leader within the San Mateo County School Boards Association, going so far as to find new leaders for recognition through the association's annual Kent Award.

How much energy does this man exude? Well, ask yourself, how many school district trustees visit nighttime staff to see how they are holding up? How many trustees show up in the morning at dangerous intersections to

witness what parents are worried about? How many trustees visit every school in the district, check out cafeterias, write handwritten thank you notes to teachers, staff and parents? Many would show up at school events when invited, but how many are known on campuses where middle schoolers call out their names? This is Redwood City's public servant, Dennis McBride.

Not content to contribute to his community solely through its schools, Dennis served as the treasurer or board member or both for multiple community organizations including the Police Activities League, the workforce housing committee of the school board, and on the board overseeing faculty/staff housing for the San Mateo County Community College District. He's also served on the education advisory committees of two members of the state legislature and as treasurer for the Sequoia Awards, a community scholarship program recognizing low income high school students with big college or technical education dreams.

Dennis McBride's contributions don't end with education. From 2006 to 2013, he served as treasurer for the Santa Clara University Law School Board of the Northern California Innocence Project and on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

In all those cartoonish ads for batteries, some of the other bunnies run out of juice but the Energizer Bunny keeps going. In contrast, I think even the Energizer Bunny would give up before Dennis McBride. It has been my privilege and honor to serve with Dennis. We are sorry to see him go, and so sad that his drum will not be beating for us again. We wish Dennis, his wife, Lori, and his sons Cory and Casey much happiness in the coming years.

Madam Speaker, a one-man band has now retired from public life, but the beat goes on because everyone wants to make Dennis proud as they follow his lead, his laughter, and his kind heart.

FROM HAARETZ: "ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN" BY GIDEON LEVY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, when military force and violence are used to oppress, dehumanize, and deny fundamental human rights to an entire civilian population—women, men, and children—it is an injustice that is antithetical to America's values and our self-proclaimed belief in promoting dignity, equality, and justice for all. The Israeli military occupation of Palestine is such an injustice. Settlement expansion, home demolitions, the military detention of children and state sponsored violence are the weapons used as Israel seeks to annex Palestinian land and destroy any prospects for Palestinian self-determination.

The violence used by Israel against Palestinians, especially children, is shocking and abhorrent. Late last week a particularly grotesque act of state sponsored violence took place when a 13 year-old Palestinian boy living under military occupation in the West Bank